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Technology Reflection

Technology is a powerful tool, especially now. Students are engrossed with technology and it infiltrates all aspects of their lives. Technology is very much the way of the world. We communicate through technology and we learn from technology. Technology I think is a great to enhance learning. There are so many activities, videos, resources, games, and creation tools available online that students can use to learn material or showcase what they have already learned. I have used technology in the classroom to show students why different math theorems work and also how math is used and applied outside of the classroom. Watching an NFL quarterback talk about the Pythagorean Theorem and trying to figure out how far he needs to throw the ball to get it down the field is more powerful then me telling my students this. Technology will allow us as educators to enrich the learning experience for students. Since technology is so prevalent another aspect that we must address is modeling the appropriate and responsible use of personal technology. With computers, tablets, and phones every where, students need to be taught what is appropriate and not appropriate uses of such technology and what the social norms are for technology use.

My interaction with technology has provided me with certain strengths. Since I grew up with the computer and Internet, I would say that I can pick up new technology more quickly than my parents’ generation. Playing around with an online resource, trying to format a document, or searching for things online is a strength I have developed as I have continued to use technology. A big challenge in regards to technology, specifically in my school, is the availability. We have several mobile labs, but for a good chunk of the year they are blocked out and reserved for testing. I would also say a challenge of mine is keeping up with the new resources available. I get used to the things I use and don’t usually have much time to explore other resources. Some of the resources I regularly use I found out about coincidentally.

I am really looking forward to learning new tools to use in my classroom. This course will put several tools in front of me and provide the chance for me to interact with them and to try to see how I can use them with my students. I have taken other technology courses and I have walked away with some very valuable knowledge about the resources that are available to teachers and students. I look forward to adding to my list of resources!